

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

SUMMERS' HANDS FREE MOBILE BILL HEARD IN COMMITTEE

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Vanessa Summers (D-Indianapolis) discussed her hands free mobile legislation in the House Roads and Transportation Committee on Monday.

House Bill 1508 would make it a Class D infraction to drive a car while using a hand-held cell phone except in emergency situations.

Because Summers' legislation did not get a vote in committee, it is now considered dead for the 2005 legislation session.

"I've been working on this legislation for four or five years and it's been like chipping away at the mountain," said Summers. "Having my bill heard in committee today was the farthest it's gotten in the legislative process. Even though it wasn't voted on, getting the word out to people about the dangers of talking on cell phones without using an ear piece is a step in the right direction to saving lives on roads and highways."

A study conducted by Design Science, a Philadelphia research firm, found that using hands free devices increased drivers' attention to steering, breaking, and speed control. More than 70 percent of the subjects steered more accurately and all of the participants had faster break reaction times when they used hands free devices for their cell phones.

"This legislation is not a trivial affair like some may believe," said Summers. "I'm just afraid something horrific will have to happen before anyone will seriously consider making it a law to use hands free devices for cell phones while driving a car."